

CONFUSED ABOUT THE STRIKE?

A letter from CFA

Dear Cal Poly Students,

As you know, on April 13–15 and 18–19, your faculty are going on strike. We want you to know why we are doing this, and how it will affect you. First of all, you should know that our salary increase will NOT cause your fees to increase.

All CSU faculty are governed by collective bargaining: we negotiate our contract as a group. We're all in this together. In this situation, if the other side refuses to make a reasonable offer then our last option is to strike. This is where we are today.

A normal labor strike means that employees walk out and do not return until a contract is settled. Employees don't work, products don't get made, and the company loses money. But in an educational setting, that kind of strike can make things tough on students. Entire courses would be canceled, grades would not be assigned, and your academic progress would be put in jeopardy.

Faculty literally love teaching and we don't want to hurt the very people we came here to work with—our students.

So we elected to do a five-day strike. Classes will not meet for those days. Faculty will not be teaching, supervising or answering e-mails. There will be picket lines and demonstrations and lots of press coverage. **And this will be happening at all 23 CSU campuses at the same time—the largest strike in the history of American higher education.**

Please understand that we don't take this action lightly. This strike has been years in the making, and while it's primarily about worsening faculty pay, it's also a product of years of declining morale. Our salary request is so reasonable that an independent fact finder who was requested by the Chancellor's office declared that a substantial general salary increase "is in the interest of students, who need caring faculty and certainly in the public interest as our country needs a well-educated population."

During strike discussions, you may also hear about attacks on shared governance (a system in which faculty and administrators used to work together on decision making) and of a leadership crisis in the system and on this campus. Ask your faculty about these important issues.

Now it's time for us to change things. You think of Cal Poly as your alma mater; we feel the same way. We are truly invested in Cal Poly's future and your success. So, we are doing this to earn a fair wage, to get our voice back, and to return Cal Poly to the quality institution it has been. This is the promise we make to you—our students.

So, please join us by connecting with Students for Quality Education (SQE) via their Facebook page (Cal Poly Students for Quality Education – SQE) or at goo.gl/4iyRQy. If you choose to attend class, no one will prevent you. On the other hand, Cal Poly administrators assured the Academic Senate that no student should be penalized for refusing to cross the picket line. We invite you to join us on our picket lines.

This is your alma mater. For us, this strike is for a life's work. We'll see you April 13th (and 14th, 15th, 18th, and 19th)!

Cal Poly's California Faculty Association

